FOREIGN MILLIONAIRES.

By W. Freeman Day.

IN spite of one conspicuous instance to the contrary, the great fortunes of America are seldom landed estates. We are essentially a commercial nation, and the vast mercantile possibilities of a market of sixty million people have proved our most potent talisman of wealth. The rapid growth of our cities has of course made many land owners rich; but it remains true that of the greatest fortunes most have been amassed by other means—in trade or manufacturing, by mining or invention, or, still more frequently, in the wonderful development of our railroad system.

Herein is to be found a significant contrast between the United States and most other countries. It may be said broadly that in crowded Europe, land hunger has made the soil the most coveted of all possessions, and enabled its possessors to monopolize a preponderating share of the wealth of the community. Of this tendency Great Britain supplies a striking exemplification. Her land owners are her richest men; and, conversely, a few very rich men own an overwhelmingly disproportionate share of her land. Established custom demands that real property shall always be left, undivided, to the eldest son. Many estates are entailed, and must of necessity be held together so; and the rule also becomes law in the case of an intestate.

Thirty six persons own one tenth of the surface of Great Britain. First in the extent of his acreage is the Duke of Sutherland, who has great stretches of mountain and moor in the Highlands, but draws most of his income from a much smaller tract of coal lands in Staffordshire.

First in the amount of his revenues is the Duke of Westminster, who is

THE EARL OF DERBY.
From a photograph by Barraud, London.

undoubtedly the richest living Englishman. His wealth is of adamantine solidity, too. He owns a good deal of farming land, chiefly in Cheshire, which has no doubt depreciated during the recent years of agricultural depression in England; but any loss from this source has been offset a hundred fold by the advance in value of his great hold-

ings in the west end of London. Hugh Lupus Grosvenor—to give the duke his family name—traces his descent back to Hugh Lupus (Hugh the Wolf), *Gros Veneur* (chief huntsman) to the king, who came over to England with William the Conqueror. Some three centuries ago a rate as they fall in. Its present owner's annual income is said to be eight hundred thousand pounds sterling, which would make him worth something like a hundred millions of dollars.

Of the Duke of Westminster's half a dozen residences the finest—his

JOHN T. NORTH.
From a photograph by Elliott & Fry, London.

descendant of the Norman hunter married a wife whose dowry was a large farm not far from the city of Westminster, in those days separated from London by a wide stretch of fields. That farm now forms the residential quarter around Grosvenor Square, the many hundred houses that cover it being mostly let on ninety nine year leases, which are always sure to be renewed at a higher

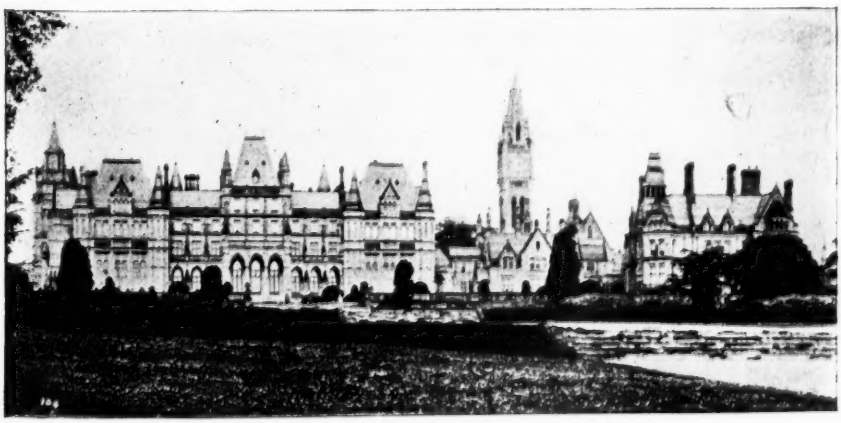
home—is Eaton Hall, a few miles from Chester. It is perhaps as splendid a house as money ever built. It lacks only that which money cannot buy—the historic memories of such a mansion as Windsor or Blenheim. It is great in extent and magnificent in its surroundings. Its walls were decorated by Royal Academicians. Its chapel is a Gothic gem, in whose tower

there hangs a peal of bells of which rumor said, when they were first placed there, that they were made at fabulous cost of pure silver. In its garden exotic flowers and fruits grow under acres of glass. In its stables and paddocks are a hundred thoroughbreds, in its surrounding park, through which winds the Dee, are a thousand fallow deer. From its gates wide avenues, bordered with rows of great trees, stretch away for miles to the lodges that guard the park entrances.

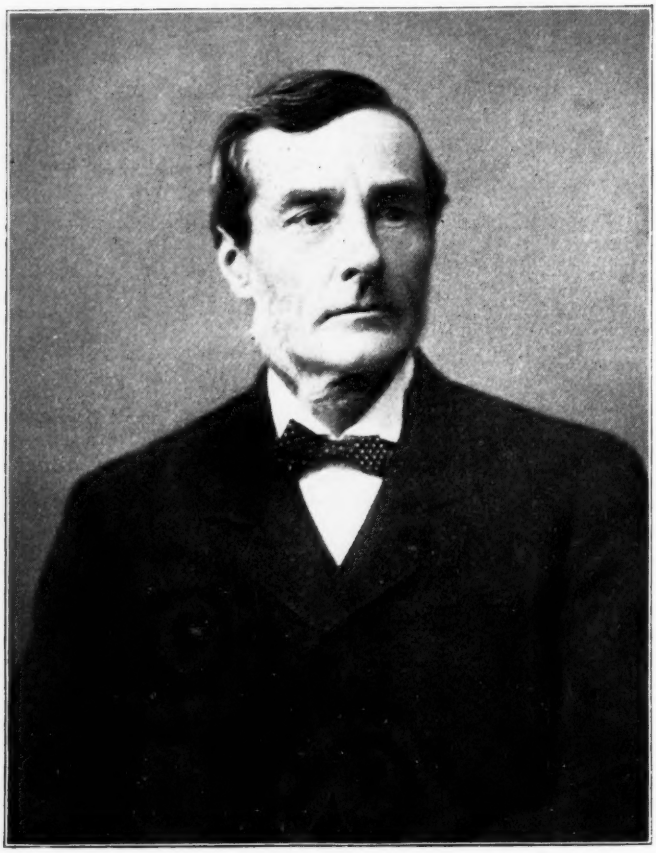
THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.
From a photograph by Jagerspacher, Gmunden.

Among the other great land owners of England are the Dukes of Northumberland, Devonshire, Bedford, Portland, and Norfolk, the Earl of Derby, and Sir John Ramsden. Lord Derby is probably the richest of these, for besides a rentroll of something like a million dollars a year he is popularly credited with the possession of more ready money than any other Englishman except the Rothschilds. He has played a prominent part in politics. His father, the famous Lord Derby who was thrice premier of England, gave him a seat in the Cabinet in 1866. Later he was twice foreign secretary under Disraeli, but resigned owing to a disagreement with the Tory leader's militant policy during the threatened crisis with Russia in 1878, and joined Gladstone, with whom he afterwards served as foreign secretary.

Not all the English millionaires are land owners. Some have gained their money by trade in London, or by manufacturing in Lancashire or Yorkshire. Lord Brassey, who died some months ago, left thirty million dollars made by himself and his father in railroad construction. The Baroness Burdett Coutts, now nearly eighty years old—double the age of her husband, Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, formerly of Philadelphia—has a great fortune amassed in banking. The Barings had another, and probably a



EATON HALL, RESIDENCE OF THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER.



THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER.
From a photograph by Downey, London.

greater, till the crash in their Argentine investments brought disaster and almost ruin.

Colonel North, the "nitrate king," has been more fortunate in his South American speculations. His career is a romance that even California can scarcely parallel. Forty years ago John Thomas North was a bare footed boy in a Yorkshire town, the son of a small dealer in coals. He served an apprenticeship at an iron foundry, and at twenty five, with an engineer's certificate, went out to Chili to make his fortune. Not finding it there, he drifted north to Peru, and made a tenstrike by getting hold of the nitrate beds at Iquique and exporting their valuable product to Europe.

He still has great interests in South America, and has added others in England and in Belgium. He has built himself a palace at Eltham, in Kent, and owns fine paintings, costly yachts, and fast horses, on which he "plunges" to the extent of betting half a million dollars, sometimes, on a single race. Wonderful stories are told of the amount of his wealth, which may actually be, as is asserted, a hundred million dollars, or may be much less. It is a far more uncertain quantity than such estates as the Duke of Westminster's. In the recent Chilian war, for instance, he

risked great losses by the open aid he gave to the Congressional faction, and would have suffered severely had Balmaceda triumphed.

There is a curious story of a man in London whom nobody knows, but who, nevertheless, is worth sixty million dollars. His name is Smith—George Smith. He made his money in America, and has most of it invested here in such a way that it pays no taxes and cuts no figure in the public eye. He lives at a club in London, to avoid paying taxes on a house. Indeed he is altogether so mysterious an individual that one is tempted to believe him a myth —a financial Mrs. Harris.

The Rothschild millions—or billions, perhaps—are to a great extent held in common by the branches of that famous family. But as the head of the house, and the chief power in the control of its finances, Nathaniel Mayer Rothschild must be ranked among the very richest men of the world. He is the great grandson of the founder of the Rothschild fortunes, and is a man of fifty two, with a son of about half that age. His English title only dates from 1885. He is the first member of the Jewish religion — Disraeli was a churchman —ever admitted to the House of Lords.

LORD ROTHSCHILD.

BARON HIRSCH.

Lord Rothschild's seat at Tring, in Hertfordshire, is a mansion of elaborate magnificence, but his own tastes are said to be simple and unostentatious. Although there is no great benefaction that bears the name of Rothschild, a certain degree of munificence has been traditional with the family. The head of the London branch is said to devote to charitable objects not only a quarter of a million dollars a year, but also a good deal of his time.

Alphonse de Rothschild,* head of the Paris branch, is one of the many great capitalists of the French metropolis. Another, and a member of the same race, is Baron Maurice Hirsch. Baron Hirsch's grandfather was a tradesman in the Bavarian

* A portrait of Alphonse de Rothschild appeared in MUNSEY'S MAGAZINE for December, 1892, on page 306.

snug property of her own. Richest of all the Teutonic royalties is the Duke of Cumberland—his English title comes to him by descent from his grandfather, the fifth son of George III—who would be King of Hanover if greedy Prussia had not seized his father's dominions. He has steadily declined to accept the money that was offered him as compensation for his lost throne. He does not need it, for he is said to be worth a hundred million marks, ($25,000,000) without it.

If we include royal millionaires, we should have mentioned Queen Victoria, and should add Alexander of Russia and Franz Josef of Austria, who are the wealthiest men of their respective countries. Several of the Austrian nobles have great ancestral estates, the most famous being those of the Esterhazy family, which are said to be grievously incumbered with mortgages. In Russia the Demidoffs have long been known as multimillionaires. A still greater fortune has been accumulated in the last few years by the Nobel brothers, the two enterprising Germans who developed the petroleum wells of Baku, and are the Standard Oil magnates' only rivals for the trade of the world.

Spain is another poor country, but one of her citizens—the Duke of Medina-Cœli—is said to be worth thirty million dollars. Nobody in Italy can claim such figures, the richest Italian being the Prince Torlonia, with about half as much.

Wonderful stories have been told of the treasures possessed by some of the Indian princes and nabobs. India is really the poorest country that has a civilized government, yet among her three hundred millions of people, most of whom are chronically on the ragged edge of starvation, there are a few individuals of great wealth. The same may be said of China, whence also come occasional reports—doubtless highly imaginative reports—of fortunes that sink our greatest estates into insignificance.

Financial conditions in the newer lands of South America, of British Africa, and of Australia, might be expected to approach our own more nearly, and such is as a rule the case. California has had its parallel in the gold fields of Victoria and the diamond mines of Kimberley. A man named Barnato, who settled at Kimberley in 1876, is said to have made thirty millions of dollars out of diamonds. Cecil Rhodes, the most prominent politician of Cape Colony, has Napoleonic schemes of colonization that have made him the "uncrowned king" of a territorial empire. James Tyson, a Queensland "squatter" has wide Australian grazing lands that have made him worth twenty five million dollars.

In the republics south of us the favorite paths to millions are agri-

DON GUZMAN BLANCO.
From a photograph by Mora, New York

RESIDENCE OF SENORA COUSINOS AT SANTIAGO.

culture and politics. Political chieftains have too seldom been above using their official positions for their personal enrichment. Barrios, for instance, when he was president of Guatemala, made ample provision for a rainy day by safe investments in New York, whither his widow fled when he was killed by revolutionists. Guzman Blanco was more fortunate, and lives to enjoy, in the luxury of Paris, the ample fruit of his financial forethought during his long ascendency in Venezuelan politics. Celman, of Argentina, is another ex president the origin of whose great wealth is ascribed to his period of official power. Diaz, of Mexico, has been often and loudly charged with a similar tendency to pervert his public trust; but on the testimony of those who should know, the accusation is undeserved, and he is a comparatively poor man.

The richest Chilian is a woman, Senora Isidora Cousinos, who owns coal mines, steamships, valuable land in Santiago and Valparaiso, a railroad, potteries, and a list of other properties too long to recite. Some of these she inherited, and some were left her by her husband, who died a good many years ago. Since then the widow has managed all her business for herself, and very successfully. She has a two million dollar country place at Lota, in southern Chili, and a house in Santiago which though not large is said to be wonderfully furnished and decorated.

A Central American Crœsus is John James Magee, who apparently owns nearly everything worth owning in Guatemala. He is an Irishman, and was British Consul at San Jose in 1875, when he happened to offend the local commandante, who seized him and gave him a hundred lashes. The government had to pay him $100,000 damages—$1,000 for each and every lash—and with that sum he laid the foundation of his present fortune, which is estimated at ten million dollars.